

spent free time organizing and tracing his family's genealogy.

LeRoy dedicated his life to the service of his country and leaves behind a tremendous legacy. He will be dearly missed. We offer our sincerest condolences to Mary and the rest of the Elfmann family, and pray LeRoy's memory will comfort them during this difficult time.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 2023

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding votes I missed on January 24 and 25, 2023. I was not in Washington, D.C. on these dates due to the death of my father and subsequent mourning period. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Roll Call No. 32 on H.R. 159, the Chance to Compete Act of 2023, I would have voted yes. The bill enjoys strong bipartisan support to make our federal government more efficient.

Roll Call No. 33 on H.R. 300, the Settlement Agreement Information Database Act of 2023, I would have voted yes. The bill enjoys strong bipartisan support to make our federal government more transparent.

Roll Call No. 34 on H.R. 346, the NOTAM Improvement Act of 2023, I would have voted yes. The bill enjoys strong bipartisan support to make American aviation stronger, safer, and more reliable.

Roll Call No. 35 on H.R. 400, the Investing in Main Street Act of 2023, I would have voted yes. The bill enjoys strong bipartisan support to make American businesses stronger.

Lastly, Roll Call No. 36 on H. Con. Res. 7, Commending the Bravery, Courage, and Resolve of the Women and Men of Iran Demonstrating in More Than 133 Cities and Risking Their Safety to Speak Out Against the Iranian Regime's Human Rights Abuses, I would have voted yes. I am a cosponsor of the resolution, which enjoys strong bipartisan support.

HONORING 'ALFIE' ALVARADO-RAMOS

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 2023

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my sincerest congratulations and to wish a happy retirement to one of my constituents and a longtime friend, 'Alfie' Alvarado-Ramos. Alfie is celebrating her retirement after a lifetime of service.

Alfie was born in Puerto Rico and served 22 years on active duty retiring as the Command Sergeant Major of Madigan Army Medical Center and Troop Command, Joint Base Lewis McChord.

Alfie Alvarado-Ramos joined the Washington State Department of Veteran Affairs (WDVA) in 1993 as the Associate Superintendent of the Washington Soldiers Home. She then became the Superintendent of the Washington Veterans Home, where she later served as the agency's Assistant Director and Deputy Director before Gov. Jay Inslee appointed her as Director in 2013.

She established new programs and services to meet the needs of Washington's veterans and their families—from opening the new State Veterans Home in Walla Walla in 2017 to creating new programs to serve military spouses and LGBTQ+ veterans. In recent years, Alvarado-Ramos worked with state elected officials and leaders to create a framework for suicide prevention efforts statewide, and most recently unveiled a 988-suicide prevention emblem to generate awareness for the 988 Crisis Lifeline.

Alfie is the recipient of the Army Legion of Merit Medal and Military Order of Medical Merit and state and national awards that include the Governor's Distinguished Management Leadership Award and the Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary's Leadership Award. She is currently serving as executive member of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs and National Association of State Veterans Home.

In addition to her work in our community, Alfie's passion for ensuring women veterans have a voice in the veteran's community has resulted in annual women veterans' conferences, monthly learning sessions, and Washington State's participation in the I Am Not Invisible Campaign.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor today to celebrate Alfie Alvarado-Ramos on her retirement. Her extraordinary leadership and love for her community has never wavered. She has made a tremendous difference in the state of Washington. Her service to our country and community is greatly appreciated and will be long remembered.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND SERVICE OF SHERIFF MARK WIEGERT

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 2023

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the career of retiring Calumet County Sheriff Mark Wiegert. Throughout Sheriff Wiegert's 31 years in law enforcement, he has proven to be a remarkable leader and mentor to those in his department. Beginning as a part-time officer in Brillion and Valders, Sheriff Wiegert has obtained immense knowledge while serving in different capacities and departments in law enforcement, including as a sergeant in the investigative division and a lieutenant managing the jail and investigations. The many positions he held along the way surely played a role in obtaining his most recent leadership position, Sheriff of Calumet County. I commend Sheriff Wiegert's unwavering service for the past 31 years to the people of Calumet County and Northeast Wisconsin.

During his time leading the Calumet County Sheriff's Office, Sheriff Wiegert was committed to ensuring that the department expand while also identifying ways to better serve the community. While in office, Sheriff Wiegert oversaw the \$35 million project to build the new sheriffs office and jail. In addition to the building expansion, the department added new positions, a swearing-in ceremony for officers, and a wellness committee that assists officers in navigating mental health challenges. In recognition of Sheriff Wiegert's efforts, he has re-

ceived several awards, including the Wisconsin Officer of the Year Award and the Outstanding Victim Advocate Award from the Wisconsin Association of Homicide Investigators. It is evident through these many accolades that Sheriff Wiegert has committed himself to serving the people of Calumet County with a sense of duty and integrity.

Mr. Speaker, today the people of Northeast Wisconsin thank Sheriff Wiegert for his extraordinary service and commitment to his community. Sheriff Wiegert will surely be missed, but I wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

GUAM-NORTHERN MARIANAS EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLÁN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 2023

Mr. SABLÁN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Guam-Northern Marianas Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) for 25 years of valued service supporting our islands' service men and women seeking civilian employment. Since 1997, the Guam-Northern Marianas ESGR has been instrumental in connecting our islands' National Guard and Reserve members with employers that understand and cooperate with one's commitment to military service. Supportive employers are critical to maintaining the strength and readiness of our Nation's Guard and Reserve units, should they be called upon for duty or disaster emergencies.

The Army National Guard, the Air National Guard, the Army Reserve, the Air Force Reserve, the Navy Reserve, the Marine Corps Reserve, and the Coast Guard Reserve are on the frontlines of securing our Nation from threats around the world. In fact, the National Guard and Reserve forces comprise nearly half of our U.S. military strength. Recently, Reserve Component forces have been activated across America to assist efforts to respond to, mitigate, and control the COVID-19 pandemic. And, with more than 2,700 service members on Guam, Saipan, Rota, and Tinian, Guam and the Marianas enjoy the highest Reserve membership per capita anywhere in the United States.

That is why the work of Guam-Northern Marianas ESGR is so important to supporting the well-being of our islands and our Nation. Our service men and women make tremendous sacrifices answering the call to serve, as do their employers whose deployed Guard and Reserve members can no longer offer their skills and services for months at a time. Yet because of ESGR, these service members are comforted by the knowledge of job security upon returning home and their employers are rewarded with a uniquely dedicated workforce.

I urge my colleagues to join me in thanking and celebrating Guam-Northern Marianas ESGR for their exceptional service and commitment to our islands' service men and women.